

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Georgia/Armenia)

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Economic and Political Information on Cities
in Georgia and Armenia

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE
ACQUIRNO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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Repatriated Armenians

1. The Armenians repatriated to the USSR from Greece were not put in camps but were scattered throughout Soviet Armenia in groups in villages and towns. Every Armenian repatriated from Greece was required to report to the local police within 15 days after his arrival.

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which were good for one year. [redacted] stamped by the militia, they lived freely and without any restrictions in Leninakan. They were not aware that any surveillance was made of them, and they were not obliged to report to the MVD.

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2. In order to obtain and to keep their bread cards and in order not to be evicted from the houses where they were staying, [redacted] worked for 10 or 15 days in government enterprises. One worked in a factory which was making cotton bags; another worked in a sanatorium in Leninakan, named Magabarder, which cares for small children.

Radio and Correspondence

3. [redacted] often listened secretly to radio broadcasts from Ankara. In the city of Leninakan, the electric current was shut off during the hour of the Turkish broadcast (8 p.m.), but many of the repatriated Armenians had radios run by batteries and were able to listen secretly to these broadcasts. Persons arrested for listening to the Turkish broadcast were condemned to forced labor. Several months after the repatriates arrived (i.e., at the beginning of 1947), they were ordered to turn in their radios. Compliance with this order was only partial; many of the repatriates succeeded in hiding their radios and continued to listen secretly to the Ankara station. [redacted] the order to surrender radios was general, i.e., applied to the native inhabitants also. Many of the permanent inhabitants of Leninakan, however, succeeded by one means or another in keeping their radios and listening to the Ankara broadcasts without interruption.

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4. [] wrote repeatedly to their relatives in [] but later they were informed that none of their letters had been received by the addressees.

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Armenia: Political

5. Public Opinion: In general, the population of Soviet Armenia was described as being strongly opposed to the Soviet regime but afraid of giving expression to this attitude. Some 10 to 20 persons from the Leninakan area would try to escape each day. Most were caught and brought back for imprisonment in such places as Yerevan, Rostov, and Siberia. One [] was sentenced on two or three occasions to 10 days' imprisonment on suspicion of desiring to escape.

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6. Party: The total membership of the Communist Party in Soviet Armenia was stated [] to be 3,500.

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7. Prisoners: Soviet Armenian newspapers published a statement that the number of Armenians in prison was 10,103. The total population was placed at 86,000.

8. Officials: Mikail Garabedian, a Soviet Armenian repatriation official in Beirut in 1946, is reported to be head of the Cheka (sic) for all Soviet Armenia.

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City of Leninakan

10. Leninakan has the following industries:

- a. Myaskombinat, a factory producing sausages and other preserved meats which are shipped to other parts of the USSR for the use of the Soviet Army. This factory operates only one shift daily, and stops operations altogether from time to time when []

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and [] fail to send livestock for slaughter. []
[] the factory employed 1,000 to 1,600 workers as of May 1948, according to the supply of pork.

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- b. Dekistia (sic), a large factory producing "cabot" (sapog-boots?). About 3,000 workmen are employed, and work continues 24 hours a day. The products are shipped daily by rail to the north.
- c. Trigudalts (sic), a mill weaving cotton flannel for underwear. Sometimes work goes on 24 hours a day, and sometimes there is only one shift daily. The mill employs about 1,000 persons.
- d. Textile factory, employing some 4,500 workers as of May 1948. The factory is a combine comprising spinning as well as weaving shops, which work wool, cotton, silk, and other materials.

[] Comment: This is probably the Leninakan'ski Tekstilny Kombinat; []

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- e. Molotov Spinning Factory, employing some 1,300 persons.
- f. A factory for making hosiery, employing about 1,200 workers.

[] Comment: The factory mentioned in Para. c above may be identical with one of those mentioned in Para. d, e, and f.

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- g. Shoe factory [] Comment: [] for Footwear Factory No. 2 at Leninakan.).
- h. Dress factory.
- i. Baran Artel (sic), a factory producing sacks for wheat.
- j. Brewery.
- k. There are also some smaller industries but no war factories in Leninakan.

11. Prices in Leninakan open market were as follows in May 1948:

Tomatoes	40 rubles a kilo
Onions	18 " "
Rice	Previously 120 rubles per kilo, later reduced to 80.
Cigarettes	In packets of 25: "Kazbek" brand, 20 rubles; "Sasunti Tavit" brand, 20 rubles; "Sevan" brand, 10 rubles.

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- 13. An unpaved road 18 to 20 kilometers long runs from Leninakin to Artik, an unimportant town where ornamental building stone is quarried from Mount Alagez by German PWs.

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City of Yerevan

14. Yerevan contains the following factories:

- a. Factory for making tires of different dimensions for trucks and passenger cars. The entire production is sent by rail to the north.
- b. Flour mill. There are 24 concrete elevators, each with a capacity of about 1,000 tons. [redacted]
- c. Factory for the production of pharmaceuticals. This was completed in 1947 and has begun to operate. [redacted] Comment: Probably the Yerevan Chemical Factory [redacted]
- d. Shoe factory [redacted]
- e. Textile mill.
- f. Canning factory.
- g. Brewery and cognac distillery [redacted]

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All of the above-mentioned factories are powered by the large hydro-electric plant near Lake Sevan, which supplies electric power to Yerevan, Leninakan, Nakhichevan, and the surrounding area as far as the town of Alaverdi (also called Shamuy Ani).

Railroads

15. Trains powered by electricity run on the railroad from Samtrediya to Tbilisi. [redacted]

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- 16. A passenger train of 15 to 20 cars which leaves Yerevan at 3 p.m. reaches Leninakan at 9:30 p.m. and Tbilisi at 6 or 7 a.m. on the following day. Another passenger train leaves Yerevan at 9:30 p.m. and arrives in Leninakan at 6 a.m. on the following day and in Tbilisi at 2 or 2:30 p.m. The length of the railroad line from Leninakan to Tbilisi is 220 kilometers. The distance from Leninakan to Yerevan is 175 kilometers. From Tbilisi a passenger train which leaves at 4:30 p.m. arrives in Leninakan at 11 p.m. and in Yerevan at 5 or 5:30 a.m. of the following day. Another passenger train leaves Tbilisi at 10:30 p.m. and arrives in Leninakan at 9:30 a.m. of the following day and in Yerevan at 4 p.m.
- 17. The fare from Leninakan to Yerevan is 25 rubles; from Leninakan to Tbilisi, 30 rubles.
- 18. On the railroad from Leninakan to Tbilisi there is only one tunnel, called Dzhdzhur. It is about five kilometers long and is between Nalband and Dzhdzhur stations. One end of the tunnel is very close to the railroad station at Dzhdzhur. The railroad from Tbilisi via Leninakan to Yerevan is a single track line. Two engines are used on trains going from Tbilisi to Leninakan.
- 19. The railroad line between Leninakan and Yerevan is level most of the way and there are no tunnels.
- 20. [redacted]

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